

Title: **Support Maryland General Assembly Senate Bill 0356 –  
Oral Testimony**

Speaker: Daniel E. Woomer  
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Hearing: Senate Finance  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 Time: 1:00 pm

**Introduction:**

I'm Daniel E. Woomer, past VP of the Linthicum-Shipleigh Improvement Association, Board member and past president of the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit, member of the Citizens Against the SCMaglev, and voting member of the BWI Roundtable.

I encourage the Finance Committee to vote **IN FAVOR** with amendments the changes proposed in Senate Bill 356.

**Testimony:**

With the establishment of the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities and the \$1.00 takeoff and landing fee to fund its annual budget, communities neighboring BWI Marshall have received grants-in-aid to make transportation related improvements.

This Bill would increase the fee to \$2.00, and expand the scope of the projects eligible to receive grants. Currently, for example, only existing sidewalks can be replaced. There are many roads that lack sidewalks. The proposed changes would allow communities to request additional quality of life, environmental impact improvement, and safety projects.

Note, the proposed changes should have no impact to the State budget. Grants are funded by takeoff and landing fees. On average there are 8 to 10 grants per year (pre-Covid). Even doubling the fees, the number of grants awarded will likely remain small. Existing State resources should be able to absorb these few additional simple grants.

My first suggested amendment is no additional employee as proposed in Financial and Policy Note.

Second amendment I suggest is strike line 11 on page 3 quote *Improve Education* end quote.

The grants should be focused on community projects that improve residents' safety and quality of life. For example, replacement of dilapidated decades old sidewalks improves the safety and quality of life for all, from tots, to parents with strollers, to school children, to senior citizens.

**In Summary:**

I encourage the Finance Committee members to vote IN FAVOR with amendments the changes proposed in this Bill.

Thank you.